

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ROBERT V. MORRIS,

Defendant.

4:15-CR-3047

TENTATIVE FINDINGS

The Court has received the revised presentence investigation report in this case. There are no objections to the presentence report. The defendant has moved for a departure and for variance (filing [17](#)).

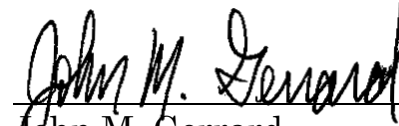
IT IS ORDERED:

1. The Court will consult and follow the Federal Sentencing Guidelines to the extent permitted and required by *United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220 (2005) and subsequent cases. In this regard, the Court gives notice that, unless otherwise ordered, it will:
  - (a) give the advisory Guidelines respectful consideration within the context of each individual case and will filter the Guidelines' advice through the 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) factors, but will not afford the Guidelines any particular or "substantial" weight;
  - (b) resolve all factual disputes relevant to sentencing by the greater weight of the evidence and without the aid of a jury;
  - (c) impose upon the United States the burden of proof on all Guidelines enhancements;
  - (d) impose upon the defendant the burden of proof on all Guidelines mitigators;
  - (e) depart from the advisory Guidelines, if appropriate, using pre-*Booker* departure theory; and

- (f) in cases where a departure using pre-*Booker* departure theory is not warranted, deviate or vary from the Guidelines when there is a principled reason justifying a sentence different than that called for by application of the advisory Guidelines, again without affording the Guidelines any particular or "substantial" weight.
- 2. There are no objections that require resolution at sentencing. The defendant has moved for a departure based on the plea agreement, which reflects the parties' agreement that in addition to a three-level decrease in the offense level for acceptance of responsibility pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1, the defendant is entitled to an additional two-level downward departure "on the grounds of extraordinary restitution." Filing 7 at 4; see filing 20 at 3-4. The defendant has also moved for a downward variance based on the § 3553(a) factors and his personal characteristics and circumstances. Filing 20 at 4-10. The Court will resolve the defendant's motion at sentencing.
- 3. Except to the extent, if any, that the Court has sustained an objection, granted a motion, or reserved an issue for later resolution in the preceding paragraph, the parties are notified that the Court's tentative findings are that the presentence report is correct in all respects.
- 4. If any party wishes to challenge these tentative findings, that party shall, as soon as possible (but in any event no later than three (3) business days before sentencing) file with the Court and serve upon opposing counsel an objection challenging these tentative findings, supported by a brief as to the law and such evidentiary materials as are required, giving due regard to the local rules of practice governing the submission of evidentiary materials. If an evidentiary hearing is requested, such filings should include a statement describing why a hearing is necessary and how long such a hearing would take.
- 5. Absent timely submission of the information required by the preceding paragraph, the Court's tentative findings may become final and the presentence report may be relied upon by the Court without more.
- 6. Unless otherwise ordered, any objection challenging these tentative findings shall be resolved at sentencing.

Dated this 3rd day of August, 2015.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John M. Gerrard", is written over a horizontal line.

John M. Gerrard  
United States District Judge